

that had previously been left standing for several weeks at a snail-infested locality at Geraldton. This is the first authenticated record of *T. pisana* from Shark Bay, though there has been a previous, unsubstantiated report of snails in another part of the townsite. Whether the species will become established there permanently remains to be seen.

Mr. Hargreaves' suggestion on the source of these snails is likely to be correct. Once while changing a car wheel near Geraldton, I left some vehicle fittings on the ground by the road for about 10 minutes. On picking them up, several living *T. pisana* were found attached to or crawling on the fittings and could easily have been transported away.

T. pisana now has a very wide distribution in south-western Australia and it is doubtful if there is a single coastal settlement or fishing spot between Kalbarri and Esperance without its population of this species. The motor vehicle has probably been the decisive factor in this range expansion. The Madura and Shark Bay records are the most peripheral to date for the species in Western Australia. The climates of the two localities are not dissimilar; Madura rainfall averages 247 mm and Denham 236 mm per annum, the six wettest months being March to August (winter) in both cases. Soils in both places are strongly calcareous.

The specimens are now in the collection of the Western Australian Museum.

—G. W. KENDRICK, Western Australian Museum.

The Little Shearwater on St. Alouarn Island, W.A.—The Little Shearwater, *Puffinus assimilis*, was first recorded on St. Alouarn Island, off Cape Leeuwin, Western Australia, by Dr Mary Gillham (*W. Aust. Nat.*, 9 (2), 1963: 29-46) on November 4, 1959. She found "one living specimen" and "several fresh carcasses", but apparently checked few burrows. Dr Gillham also reported Little Penguins, *Eudyptula minor*, breeding, and smaller burrows which she stated "almost certainly belonged" to White-faced Storm-petrels, *Pelagodroma marina*.

On September 17, 1976, with J. A. K. Lane, G. B. Pearson and my wife, I visited the island from 0700 to 0900 hours. We found Little Penguins breeding close to the landing place but no extensive search was made for these birds as the weather was expected to deteriorate. However, of those found, four were each brooding two eggs, one had two very small chicks, and one was in a burrow too deep to determine the contents.

The weather prediction was not good and we anticipated that our stay on the island would be a brief one. Accordingly our efforts were directed mainly towards a search for breeding sea-birds other than penguins. Medium-sized burrows, smaller than those of Wedge-tailed Shearwaters, *P. pacificus*, but larger than those of storm-petrels, were spread rather sparingly over the island in a number of places. About 150 were examined. One was empty and the other contained a King's Skink *Egernia* prints, sand scratching and occasionally small brown or white feathers were seen in or near the burrows. Some wings which were thought initially to belong to White-faced Storm-Petrels were found, but the heads and legs were missing. Eventually an almost-complete carcass of a Little Shearwater was located, and the other wings matched. (The wing of *P. marina* may be only 15-20 mm shorter than that of *P. assimilis*; with a cursory examination it is otherwise similar). Finally, two Little Shearwaters were captured together in a burrow but no egg or chick was present. Both birds were banded and returned to the burrow.

Two other burrows which appeared to be those of storm-petrels were examined. One was empty and the other contained a King's Skink, *Egernia kingii*. No other evidence of storm-petrels was found during the visit.

Eight Sooty Oystercatchers, *Haematopus fuliginosus*, and two Peregrine Falcons, *Falco peregrinus*, were also seen during the visit. The falcons undoubtedly would be responsible for predation of the petrels.

The anticipated rising winds caused a hasty departure from the island.

I am very grateful to Jim Lane and Grant Pearson who made this visit possible.

—S. G. LANE, 65 Wood Street, Lane Cove, N.S.W.